

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting  
MEETING SUMMARY**

Meeting date/time: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: County Administrative Office, 1312 Fairlane rd. Yreka

Key contacts:

- Matt Parker, County Natural Resources Specialist | [mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us](mailto:mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us) | 530.842.8019
- Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University Senior Facilitator | [r.wilson@csus.edu](mailto:r.wilson@csus.edu) | 415.515.2317
- Laura Foglia PhD, U.C. Davis Technical Team Lead | [lfoglia@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lfoglia@ucdavis.edu) | 530.219.5692

**MEETING RECAP**

- **Action Item Update and Approval of Past Meeting Summary.** CCP facilitator Rich Wilson provided status update from the January Advisory Committee (committee) meeting action items. The committee then approved its January meeting summary, for which there were no outstanding comments or questions.
- **Public Comment.** No comments were received during the initial public comment period. At various points during the meeting members of the public offered comments on the voluntary well monitoring program and emerging data collection effort
- **District Staff and Other Updates.** Matt Parker and RCD staff provided updates on a range of issues, including outputs from a recent “Introduction to SGMA” public workshop; DWR’s basin prioritization process; various grant proposals and funding opportunities; and draft well agreement and data access forms that are being presented to the GSA Board in May. RCD staff Ethan Brown updated the group on the RCD’s recent acquisition of various types of groundwater monitoring equipment, and how this will help with data collection.
- **Technical Team Updates and Next Steps.** The SGMA Technical Team provided an overview of DWR’s requirements for developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), a timeline of the Technical Team’s upcoming work, and the ways in which committee members can help review and validate past data sets or newly collected data in the months ahead. Committee members posed a number of questions and made comments that helped clarify the emerging GSP development process, and further define the role they will play in ensuring the accuracy and adequacy of collected data that informs the plan.
- **Bureau of Reclamation Grant Opportunity.** Matt and Laura prepared and submitted a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation to WaterSMART Program, asking for equipment for continuous well monitoring and for soil moisture sensors. The idea is to approach land owners to gauge interest in voluntary monitoring. Placing a soil moisture sensor on their land to assess efficiency of water use may serve as a positive incentive for landowner participation. If successful, the grant will provide 27-30 sets of equipment that can be used across the three basins (Scott, Shasta, and Butte).
- **Charter Discussion and Provisional Adoption.** The facilitator introduced the latest iteration of the draft charter and reminded the group that, following the January meeting, county counsel and staff closely reviewed the committee’s provisionally adopted charter. District staffer Matt Parker explained edits to the charter’s goals, member terms, and updated membership composition. Following brief discussion, the committee again provisionally adopted its charter by consensus. The next step is for District staff to present and seek approval of the charter by the GSA Board at its May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

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**SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status/Deadline</i>
Send information to the Advisory Committee about the June 5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> GSA workshop, which is designed specifically for GSA Board and Advisory Committee members.	Matt Parker or Technical Team	Complete
Send around a weblink that provides access to a basic questionnaire which the SGMA Technical Team is utilizing to conduct outreach across the basin and build the voluntary well monitoring network.	Matt Parker or Technical Team	Complete
Assist the SGMA Technical Team in identifying the location and existence, or lack thereof, of springs across the basin.	Committee members	Ongoing
Identify and share work which TNC has conducted to identify groundwater dependent ecosystems across the state; he will specifically look for and share information about the Shasta groundwater basin, and Siskiyou County more generally.	Gregg Werner	Prior to May committee meeting
Assist the SGMA Technical Team by helping identify important areas across the basin to conduct groundwater elevation monitoring.	Committee members	Ongoing
Keep the committee informed of the status of the County’s grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART program.	Matt Parker	When updates are available
Share upcoming meeting dates and times with the committee.	Matt Parker	Complete
Pending any additional feedback from county counsel, share provisionally adopted charter and make a staff recommendation for GSA board approval. Also put in a query about the use of alternate committee members at the time the charter is shared with the GSA board.	Matt Parker	May 21 <sup>st</sup> GSA Board meeting
Prepare and distribute the April meeting summary.	Rich Wilson	Complete

**Next meeting:** Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., County Administrative Office, 1312 Fairlane rd. Yreka.

View [Siskiyou County’s groundwater website](#) for posted meeting materials

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**Agenda Review, Action Item Update and Approval of Past Meeting Summary**

CCP Facilitator Rich Wilson opened the meeting, welcomed all committee members and the public, and briefly reviewed the agenda. He introduced ground rules and reminded the group to honor the queue during open group discussion in order to guide civil, inclusive and productive dialogue. No member offered any questions or comments on the agenda. The facilitator provided a status update on all action items from the January meeting. The facilitator then inquired and secured committee approval of the past meeting summary.

**Public Comment Period**

Time periods for receiving public comment are regularly built into advisory committee meeting agendas. At the outset, members may address the committee on matters not on the consent agenda. During the course of the meeting, time permitting, the public may also comment on any agenda items. No public comments were initially offered. Throughout the course of the meeting various members of the public, at times including RCD staff, commented on the good attendance at the March public meeting,

**District Staff and Other Updates**

Matt Parker provided updates on a range of issues, including:

- **Advisory Committee Membership.** The GSA Board appointed three new members at its April meeting: Lisa Faris (Big Springs Irrigation District); Steve Mains (Grenada Irrigation District); and Robert Moser (Municipal/City – Lake Shastina Community). There are now no more vacant seats on the committee. One member inquired how others feel about the current membership composition, stated that he feels membership is adequate, and acknowledged the importance of public input at meetings as well. Matt Parker noted that the adequacy of membership composition will at times be an ongoing discussion. With the new appointments, the GSA Board feels good about the current composition.
- **SGMA Public Workshop.** A workshop, focused on introducing the public to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), was held in Yreka in early March, and was well attended. A number of committee members attended. One said he saw a number of new faces at the meeting. Another commented on the importance of public education. Matt encouraged committee members to think about ideas for another public workshop to be possibly held in the fall.
- **Basin Boundary Modification.** DWR previously approved the Shasta Valley Basin Boundary Modification. Final approval was announced by DWR on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **DWR Technical Support Services.** Siskiyou County put in application for Shasta to have a monitoring well installed at county owned property in Gazelle (i.e. “The Pit”) and is awaiting to hear if DWR will approve. This well will monitor groundwater elevation and will also have a data logger, so continuous data will be available online.
- **Bureau of Reclamation Grant Opportunity.** Matt and Laura prepared and submitted a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation to WaterSMART Program, asking for

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equipment for continuous well monitoring and for soil moisture sensors. The idea is to approach land owners to gauge interest in voluntary monitoring. Placing a soil moisture sensor on their land to assess efficiency of water use may serve as a positive incentive for landowner participation. If successful, the grant will provide 9-10 sets of equipment that can be used across each basin (Scott, Shasta, and Butte). Committee members asked a few follow-up questions that helped clarify how the equipment would be used, by who and the availability of collected data.

- **Well Agreement Forms.** The county is drafting an agreement form to provide a level of protection for collected well data, a 1) well agreement form and 2) a data access/information sharing form. The documents will enable a level of privacy and confidentiality of data collected as part of the SGMA voluntary well monitoring program. Any committee members who know of individuals who may be interested to participate in the program should inform Matt. In addition, the Technical Team has prepared an outreach survey that interested parties should complete. (<https://www.getfeedback.com/r/JFf2RLBm/>)
- **Additional Grant Funds.** DWR staff Pat Vellines provided background information on Proposition 68 and available funding opportunities for medium and high priority SGMA groundwater basins around the state. The draft Project Solicitation Package (PSP) is expected to come out in May. This presents an opportunity to secure additional funds for GSP development across the county, and Matt and Laure are already preparing proposal ideas.
- **Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District Update.** Ethan Brown, Monitoring Technician with the Shasta Valley RCD, updated the committee on the RCD's recent acquisition of six groundwater loggers to help county secure data for the groundwater model. The RCD is now working to acquire a second batch of six loggers. The RCD is also about to purchase a California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS), which will provide irrigators an online portal to calculate evapotranspiration rates.

**SGMA Technical Team Updates**

Dr. Laura Foglia, SGMA Technical Team Lead, gave a presentation to orient the committee to the work that she and her team will be conducting as the Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development process unfolds. She described DWR's GSP content requirements, discussed early chapters that her team will soon begin developing (e.g. Plan Area and Basin Setting), noted how climate change scenarios will need to be explored. She then reviewed some currently available data sources and gaps in the Shasta Valley region.

The committee inquired about the data sources of some maps presented, and had a lengthy discussion about where springs may or may not be located in the basin. Laura emphasized that committee members will play a key role in helping her team identify and ground-truth important data sources and address data gaps and building out the voluntary well monitoring network and identifying important geographic locations in the basin where groundwater elevation monitoring needs to occur. She fielded a variety of comments and questions during

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the course of her presentation. District staffer Matt Parker at times also contributed to the responses below.

- Question: How will you capture data if important information is located outside the basin? Response: DWR supports capturing information outside the basin if it's important for the GSP. The model will be made larger, for example, to include Mt. Shasta. We'll consider the watershed, as we have to represent all the features of the basin.
- Question: What is an aquitard? Response: It's a layer of soil that is less permeable, like a hard pan, clay layer. You may not have many in Shasta Valley.
- Question: How will you address in-stream flow requirements, even though the state's recommendations have yet to come out? Is in-stream flow going to be part of the water budget? Response: This is why the Siskiyou county and its SGMA Technical Team are coordinating with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). We are building on what the advisory committee saw as the best option for coordination (e.g. Siskiyou County develops a surface water/groundwater model and SWRCB develops a surface water model and Siskiyou County and SWRCB work collaboratively to develop data). We're trying to understand which direction SWRCB is taking. We will develop a groundwater/surface water model, same as SWRCB wants to do. We can use the model to discuss what's reasonable. Hopefully this will help to achieve similar results—how much in-stream flow is required and how do we reach that. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will also provide input on in-stream flow criteria. And it's important to consider that water quality is more important than water quantity. We need to figure out how to enhance the groundwater system so we can support streams.
- Question: Do we need newer land use information? Response: DWR has information from 2014. They may soon need to do another land use survey. Additional comment: This is important as land use may have changed in recent years.
- Comment/question: There are a lot of dots on the map your showing, that suggest spring locations where there really aren't spring. How do you ground-truth your information? Response: This is why we bring this information to you, to help determine its level of accuracy. Additional member comment: It also depends what time of year you collect data. Additional member question: How do you undo this collected data if we demonstrate that certain springs don't exist? How does this impact the data the government has? Response: We build our own data base. Additional member question: How do we put safeguards in place so our data has merit with the state? Response: The goal of SGMA is to have local contribution of knowledge. Additional public comment: The 2015 baseline is an important consideration as you work to update the model.

At this stage of the discussion, the facilitator asked the committee to provide suggestions as to how it could help the SGMA Technical Team to ground-truth various data sources, including the location of springs, during the GSP development process. A number of responses followed:

- Use Google Earth, particularly in spring.
- Share spreadsheets with names/supposed locations of springs and work to ground-truth

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- Consider time of year for checking sites/collecting data
- Field check each data point by month and show when/how flows occur
- Consider conditions of prior winter
- Check sites to determine if it's a spring or something else (e.g. bog hole or vernal pool)
- Look at how and when data was collected
- Committee members help correct maps and SGMA Technical Team then bring improved maps for discussion and consideration.

The facilitator summarized the responses provided and noted that, moving forward, committee members will have an important role to play in assisting the SGMA Technical Team in ground-truthing past or newly collected groundwater data.

- Question: Is there a piece to the model about springs, a discussion of how it all works together? Response: Springs are a source of water, we have to include specific features like this to build a sketch of how the groundwater system in the valley works. Additional member question: It's how it works together versus just data collection? Response: Yes.
- Question: If you're doing a cross section of the valley from well logs, how many times of year will you do this? Response: The well logs primarily provide information on geology.
- Question: How do you anticipate dealing with interconnected groundwater/surface water dependent ecosystems? In the summer this is crucial. Response: A lot of questions surround this issue, and it is a core issue here in Shasta Valley. We'll do continuous groundwater monitoring and stream flow monitoring, as we do not yet have much information. As a group we will have to work through this topic. Additional response (Dr. Thomas Harter): There are two things to consider here: 1) Understanding information (e.g. research, technical studies) and having a body of knowledge; and 2) understanding groundwater and how groundwater connects to surface water. Part of the process you will go through as a committee is to get up to speed on this issue with our help. You'll work collaboratively to set objectives based on knowing how the system works and what has to be addressed under SGMA. The groundwater/surface water model will be a tool that can provide some answers on the connection between groundwater and surface water, and how this is impacted by pumping, recharge etc.
- Question: Is the data we are seeing, via the maps presented, based on existing conditions today? Response: We have some data from over time but only limited data points (showing the group differences between years).
- Question: Are well depths consistent? Response: We have to determine if this is the case. Additional member questions: If you do not have consistent well depth, how do you calculate the consistency of groundwater elevation on a contour map? What is your benchmark? Response: This is why we are preparing geological models. Once we have an idea of complexity of layers, we'll be able to produce multiple maps.
- Public comment (RCD staffer): What about dry holes? You can get a lot of data from them. Response: Technical team members acknowledged this suggestion.

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- Question: Sometimes a dry hole is a drillers fault. If there is a groundwater barrier there, it will show up in contour maps. Response: Again, these wells affiliated with DWR's California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM), and the data is available online.
- Question: How will you identify groundwater dependent ecosystems? Response: TNC has been very engaged on this issue at state level. They have put together all their available resources on various ecosystems and plants dependent on shallow water tables. They have experts that identified vegetation types, went on to existing vegetation maps for the state, then came up with a map of potential groundwater dependent ecosystems across the state. This map creates a good starting point. Additional comment/action item: Gregg Werner, who used to work for TNC and holds the environmental/ conservation seat on the committee, subsequently offered to acquire TNC's work and share it with the group. Matt Parker then suggested that perhaps a presentation on groundwater dependent ecosystems and fisheries needs could perhaps be prepared for the committee, and for a public workshop.

As Laura concluded, she again acknowledged that it will be important to understand how springs contribute to the system, and thus to the model. In response to a question, she described how the groundwater numerical model will include the entire watershed, whereas the hydrogeological conceptual model (HCM) will be for the groundwater basin. She briefly showed the group a map of the previous modeling effort in Scott Valley to illustrate emerging work that will take place in Shasta Valley. Finally, she described the summer timeline of the Technical Team's work, and noted that the group would start to discuss sustainable management criteria and the water budget at the fall and winter committee meetings.

#### **Charter Discussion and Provisional Adoption**

Facilitator Rich Wilson introduced the next iteration of the draft charter (governance structure) to the group, which included additional edits to the document provided by county counsel and Matt Parker. Matt reviewed changes to the charter's goals, member terms, and membership composition. After a few clarifying questions, the group again provisionally adopted the charter. The next step will be for Matt to present the draft charter to the GSA Board for review and approval, which is expected to occur at the May 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting.

#### **Committee Schedule and Next Steps**

Towards the end of the meeting, the committee discussed the need to set meeting times that work for all parties, and to have a regular schedule in the months ahead. The facilitator also noted that, at the next meeting, an ad hoc committee may be formed to assist in development of the Shasta Valley SGMA Communication and Engagement Plan.

#### **MEETING ATTENDEES<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Approximately a half dozen members of the public and RCD affiliates attended the meeting.

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***Advisory Committee Members***

Tristan Allen, Montague Water Conservation District  
Lisa Faris, Big Spring Irrigation District  
Susan Fricke, Karuk Tribe  
Blair Hart, Private pumper  
Justin Holmes, Edson Foulke Ditch Company  
Steve Mains, Grenada Irrigation District  
Beth Sandahl (Chair), Shasta River Water Users Association  
Pete Scala, Private pumper  
John Tannaci (Vice-chair), Residential  
Gregg Werner, Environmental/conservation

***Absent Committee Members***

Robert Moser, Municipal/City

***District Staff***

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist

***DWR Staff***

Pat Vellines, Regional Coordinator, Northern Region Office

***Technical Team***

Dr. Laura Foglia, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates  
Dr. Thomas Harter, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates  
Claire Kouba, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates  
Bill Rice, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates  
Gaby Castrellon, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates  
Cab Esposito, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates  
Brad Gooch, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates

***Facilitator***

Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program